

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-10, 15-19 and 21-24 will be pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 11-14 and 20 are canceled, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10 and 16-19 are amended, and claims 21-24 are added. The above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification and original claims. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner refused to withdrawn the previous restriction requirement and that claims 11-14 and 20 have been withdrawn. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled the withdrawn claims so that the non-withdrawn claims can proceed to issuance. Applicant reserves the right to file the subject matter of the withdrawn claims in one or more continuation applications.

Documents Crossed-out in the Form PTO-1449

The Examiner has crossed-out the two German documents on the form PTO-1449 filed on October 31, 2003 because these documents are not in the English language and because Applicant has not provided a concise explanation of these documents. Applicant is herein providing an English language abstract of each of these documents which is believed to provide the required concise explanation. Furthermore, Applicant is also providing a copy of US patent No. 4,076,867 which is a counterpart of

DE 26 07 695. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate consideration of these documents by initialing each document in the attached for PTO-1449 (attached to the concurrently filed IDS) listing the same.

Allowable Claims

Applicant appreciates the indication on page 3 of the instant Office Action that claims 1-10 and 15-19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amended to resolve the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection. As Applicant has herein amended the claims to resolve the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection, Applicant submits that at least claims 1-10 and 15-19 should now be indicated to be allowed. Furthermore, as Applicant has presented new claims 21-24 and as these claims recite features similar to those of claims 1 and 2, Applicant submits that claims 21-24 should also be indicated to be allowed. Thus, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims 1-10, 15-19 and 21-24 are in condition for allowance and that the rejection under 112, second paragraph, is now moot and should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph, Rejection

Claims 1-10 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as allegedly being indefinite.

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the basis of this rejection, Applicant has, in an effort to advance prosecution, amended the claims in a manner which is believed to render this rejection moot.

Specifically, the rejected claims have been amended to more clearly recite method steps. Thus, claims 1-10 and 15-19 are now believed to be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans VOGEL



Andrew M. Calderon
Registration No. 38,093

February 22, 2006
Greenblum & Bernstein, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, Virginia 20191
Telephone: 703-716-1191
Facsimile: 703-716-1180